

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/761,368

Examiner

Michelle R. Connelly-Cushwa

Applicant(s)

KANEKO, TSUYOSHI

Art Unit

2874

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicant's Amendment filed April 7, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,6-9,11-17,21,22 and 24-27.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 January 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 0305
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

AKM ENAYET ULLAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION
EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Britton on April 19, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 11, line 1, "claim 10" has been changed to --claim 1--.

Response to Applicant's Amendments

Applicant's Amendments filed March 21, 2005 and April 7, 2005 have been fully considered and entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

The prior art documents submitted by applicant in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 21, 2005 have all been considered and made of record (note the attached copy of form PTO-1449).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3, 6-9, 11-17, 21, 22 and 24-27 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art cited on form PTO-892, which was attached to the previous Office action, is the most

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relevant prior art known, however, the invention of claims 1, 3, 6-9, 11-17, 21, 22 and 24-27 distinguishes over the prior art of record for the following reasons.

Regarding claims 1, 3, 6-8 and 11-15; the claims are allowable over the prior art of record because none of the references either alone or in combination disclose or render obvious a lens-integrated optical fiber as defined in claim 1, wherein the core is uncladded at an end of the optical fiber in combination with the other limitations of claim 1. Claims 3, 6-8 and 11-15 depend from claim 1.

Regarding claim 9; the claim is allowable over the prior art of record because none of the references either alone or in combination disclose or render obvious a lens-integrated optical fiber as defined in claim 9, wherein the core is uncladded at the end of the optical fiber in combination with the other limitations of claim 9.

Regarding claims 16 and 24-26; the claims are allowable over the prior art of record because none of the references either alone or in combination disclose or render obvious a method to produce a lens-integrated optical fiber as defined in claim 16, comprising removing the clad around the core at the end of the optical fiber; and extending the core at the end of the optical fiber in combination with the other limitations of claim 16. Claims 24-26 depend from claim 16.

Regarding claims 17, 21 and 22; the claims are allowable over the prior art of record because none of the references either alone or in combination disclose or render obvious a method to produce a lens-integrated optical fiber as defined in claim 17, comprising removing the clad around the core at the end of the optical fiber; and

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extending the core at the end of the optical fiber in combination with the other limitations of claim 17. Claims 21 and 22 depend from claim 17.

Regarding claim 27; the claim is allowable over the prior art of record because none of the references either alone or in combination disclose or render obvious a lens-integrated optical fiber as defined in claim 27, wherein the end face of the core is higher than the end face of the clad at the end of the optical fiber in combination with the other limitations of claim 27.

Hence, there is no reason or motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to use the prior art of record to make the invention of claims 1, 3, 6-9, 11-17, 21, 22 and 24-27.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning the merits of this communication should be directed to Examiner Michelle R. Connelly-Cushwa at telephone number (571) 272-2345. The examiner can normally be reached 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rodney B. Bovernick can be reached on (571) 272-2344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general or clerical nature should be directed to the Technology Center 2800 receptionist at telephone number (571) 272-1562.

Michelle R. Connelly-Cushwa
Michelle R. Connelly-Cushwa
Patent Examiner
April 19, 2005

Akmal
AKM ENAYET ULLAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER